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**Testimony on SB 279 for the Senate Utilities Committee  
Opposition to SB 279**

My name is Mary Fund. My husband and I own a crop/livestock farm in southern Nemaha County that my family has owned and operated since the 1870's.

We are testifying in opposition to SB 279. We view it as over-reaching regulation that will effectively shut down all additional wind energy developments in Kansas and deprive Kansas landowners of their rights to use/lease their property for a responsible public good, and deny Kansas electric customers and future generations additional access to clean renewable energy.

For transparency, we have one turbine on our farm in southern Nemaha County that is part of the 120 turbine Soldier Creek Wind Farm construction that took place just last summer and went into operation in November 2020. We leased our farm because we support the development of wind energy in the state. We understand that a shift to non-carbon fuels is needed if we are to have a clean energy future, or any future at all, and that such development has become ever more financially feasible.

Local opposition to the wind farm was intense and has divided the community—something that will likely last for years. Local opposition (most of which appeared to come from those outside the identified footprint of the wind farm) cited claims of health issues related to turbines, concerns over siting distances, noise pollution, flicker shadows, property value declines, loss of viewscapes, and a host of other claims disparaging wind energy. Most of the opposition appeared to be based on mis-information or information cherry picked from fossil fuel biased sources, and fear of change. We acknowledge that those living within the wind farm footprint are entitled to not lease and to ask questions and have a say regarding siting around them, to have more transparency about the process and decision making etc. But this bill goes beyond any reasonable regulation and sets a precedent against all wind development.

Soldier Creek Wind Farm and the Nemaha County Commissioners did a fair job of taking the concerns of the non-participating landowners into the overall siting plan. We have thus far not found the operation of the turbines nearest us to be a problem. The turbine on our farm is located about one-half mile from our house. It is about ¾ mile or more from the only other nearby residence.

We are located at the very northeast corner of the wind farm so I acknowledge we are not surrounded by turbines, although there are three on the section we live that can be seen from some areas in our farmstead yard. Yes, there is additional background noise mostly from the nearest one on our own property, but we are learning that it varies with the season, time of day, direction of the wind, and even air pressure. In other words, sometimes it is louder than others; most of the time we do not notice it. As for shadow flicker, we have noticed only a very short

period of the day (a few minutes) when the line-up of the sun and the turbine and blades is just right. Then the sun moves and it is over, and it is not invasive in any way. The demands of SB 279 are simply overkill.

Another concern of ours is that if passed, SB 279 will be one more reason why so many of our best and brightest youth are leaving the state to never return-- because this legislation is a sign that the state is not forward thinking about climate change or building a new economy that will support them and their future families. Given a choice to settle in a more progressive environment, they are leaving. It may be the same for future businesses, not just wind energy related businesses, but any industry, manufacturing, or service looking for a home.

SB 279 is a sign that Kansas is hopelessly behind the times, and that its people have their heads in the sand. We urge you to reject this bill.

Thank you.

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